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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo: draft resolution

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, 47/52 G and J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 H and J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 H of 12 December 1995,

Considering that the circulation of massive quantities of small arms throughout the world impedes development and is a source of increased insecurity,

Considering also that the illicit international transfer of small arms and their accumulation in many countries constitute a threat to the populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Basing itself on the statement of the Secretary-General relating to the request of Mali concerning United Nations assistance for the collection of small arms,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the insecurity and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in Mali and the other affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Taking note of the first conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Taking note also of the interest shown by other States of the subregion in receiving a United Nations advisory mission,

Noting the actions taken and those recommended at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers and Bamako to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

1. Welcomes the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion;

2. Also welcomes the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative in the context of General Assembly resolution 40/151 H of 16 December 1985;

3. Thanks the Governments concerned in the subregion for the substantial support that they have given to the United Nations advisory missions and welcomes the declared readiness of other States to receive the United Nations Advisory Mission;

4. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

5. Notes that, as part of its efforts to halt the flow of small arms into Mali and the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, the Malian Government oversaw the destruction, at the "Flame of Peace" ceremony held at Timbuktu on 27 March 1996, of thousands of small arms handed over by ex-combatants of the armed movements of northern Mali;

6. Encourages the setting up in the countries of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to examine the issue and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.